

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

Please cancel claims 12 and 19 without prejudice.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus configured to extract in-band information from a current packet or skip extraction of said in-band information and perform a look ahead operation to a predetermined location in a next packet, wherein (i) 5 said apparatus is configured to switch between said extraction of said in-band information and skipping said extraction and (ii) said predetermined location in said next packet is a predetermined distance from a start of packet (SOP) of said next packet.

2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, further configured to switch from generating one or more unicast queue addresses to generating one or more multicast queue addresses.

3. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, further configured to switch from generating one or more multicast queue addresses to generating one or more unicast queue addresses.

4. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a pointer to address generator logic circuit;
a head pointer logic circuit; and
5 a multicast head pointer logic circuit.

5. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said head pointer logic circuit is configured to generate one or more unicast addresses.

6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said head pointer logic circuit is further configured to store one or more unicast addresses.

7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said head pointer logic circuit is configured as a pipeline stage for said in-band information.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said multicast head pointer logic circuit generates one or more multicast addresses.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said multicast head pointer logic circuit is further configured to store one or more multicast addresses.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said in-band information comprises unicast information.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said in-band information comprises multicast information.

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for extracting in-band information comprising the steps of:

(A) extracting said in-band information from a current packet;

5 (B) skipping extraction of said in-band information;

(C) performing a look ahead operation to a predetermined location in a next packet when extraction of said in-band information is skipped, wherein said predetermined location in said next packet is a predetermined distance from a start of packet (SOP) of said next packet; and

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(D) switching between steps (A) and (B).

14. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein step (A) further comprises generating and storing one or more unicast addresses.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein step (A) further comprises generating and storing one or more multicast addresses.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

~~(e)~~ providing a pipeline register stage for said in-band information.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein said in-band information comprises unicast information.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein said in-band information comprises multicast information.

19. (CANCELED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined location in said next packet comprises a port information location of said next packet.

Please add the following new claim:

21. (NEW) An apparatus configured to extract in-band information from a current packet or skip extraction of said in-band information and perform a look ahead operation to a predetermined location in a next packet, wherein (i) said apparatus is configured to switch between said extraction of said in-band information and skipping said extraction and (ii) said predetermined location in said next packet comprises a port information location of said next packet.